

## Georgia Department of Human Resources

### TANF IN GEORGIA

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), commonly known as welfare, is the monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under age 18. A family of three (mother and two children) may qualify for TANF if their gross income is below \$784 a month and assets are worth less than \$1,000. TANF is administered by DHR's Division of Family and Children Services.

There is a four-year lifetime limit on cash assistance. Work is a major component of TANF; adult recipients with a child over age 1 are required to participate in a work activity. These activities help recipients gain the experience needed to find a job and become self-sufficient.

Georgia's first TANF recipients to reach their lifetime limit left the rolls January 1, 2001; 5,327 have reached their lifetime limit as of June 1, 2002. Of these, 3,761 are no longer receiving TANF, while 1,566 clients received a hardship extension for June 2002.

- Total TANF recipients (June 2002) ----- 131,278 (100,369 children, 30,909 adults)
- Number of cases (families) ----- 55,424
- TANF cash assistance budget, FY 2002 --- \$147.1 million (\$74.7 million state funds)
- From January 1997 to August 2002, the number of families receiving cash assistance decreased by 51 percent, or 58,244.
- TANF makes up 10 percent of DHR's budget, or 1 percent of the state's FY 2002 budget.
- Average number of families and individuals receiving cash assistance each month:

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Families	114,154	84,513	65,198	54,091	50,904	54,682
People	302,473	220,417	153,060	133,023	123,671	130,409

- Racial/ethnic breakdown:
 

White:	19.9 percent	Native Amer.:	.1 percent	Hispanic:	1.5 percent
Black:	78.2 percent	Other:	.2 percent	Asian:	0.2 percent

Legal immigrants make up about .8 percent of those receiving cash assistance.

- Average monthly cash benefit through June 2002 ----- \$223
- Average family size ----- 3 (mother, 2 children)
- Maximum monthly benefit for family of three ----- \$280
- Poverty level for a family of three ----- \$1,252/month